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SUBJECT: T LETTER OF THANKS TO MFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CARRE FOR HIS ROLE IN PSI 5TH ANNIVERSARY

REF: STATE 023570

¶1. SUMMARY: French MFA Assistant Secretary for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament Philippe Carre led the opening panel of the Senior-Level Meeting for all states endorsing the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) held May 28, 2008, in Washington, DC, on the occasion of the PSI's Fifth Anniversary. The opening panel took stock of the first five years of the PSI, and included statements and presentations by representatives of Spain, the Netherlands, Russia, and Italy. The PSI Senior-Level Meeting was attended by representatives of 85 countries, almost all of the 92 states that have endorsed the PSI.

¶2. ACTION REQUESTED: Embassy is requested to deliver under appropriate cover the following letter from Acting Under Secretary John Rood to MFA Assistant Secretary for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament Philippe Carre, thanking him for his leading role in the PSI Fifth Anniversary Senior-Level Meeting. The State Department does not plan to release the text of this message but has no objection if the Government of France wishes to do so. There will be no signed original.

¶3. Begin text of letter:

Dear Mr. Carre:

On behalf of the U.S. Government, I want to thank you for introducing and leading the opening panel of the May 28, 2008 Senior-Level Meeting of Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) participants in Washington DC. Your leadership of the panel made an important contribution to the success of the meeting. This panel was a good way for the meeting participants to take stock of the first five years of the PSI, including the views of France and several other key PSI partners.

I believe the PSI Fifth Anniversary Senior-Level Meeting was very successful in reaffirming the strong commitment of the PSI partner states to respond to the WMD proliferation challenge. It also provided the participants from 85 countries an opportunity to strengthen communication with one another. We hope this event will result in expanded participation in PSI activities, particularly on a regional basis. The United States recognizes that France plays a significant role in the PSI, and we greatly appreciate your Government's continued efforts and contributions to advancing the PSI goals.

Sincerely,

John C. Rood
Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and
International Security

End text of letter.

¶4. POINTS OF CONTACT: Washington points of contact on the PSI are Jane Purcell, e-mail: PurcelJa@state.gov ,

202-647-6186; and Carlos Guzman, e-mail: GuzmanCS@state.gov ,
202-647-6320. Department appreciates Post's assistance.
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